



# *APD NEWS*

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Public Information Office, 974-5017

### **APD OFFERS HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS**

The Austin Police Department encourages safety and supervision for children throughout the year, but especially on Halloween. It's important for parents to follow a few safety precautions as children take to neighborhood streets for traditional trick-or-treating.

- Know your treater's route
- Take a flashlight
- Be sure costumes, shoes, and treat bags are safe.
- Remind children not to enter a stranger's home or car.
- Set rules about not eating treats until your children are home. Inspect all treats before allowing kids to eat them.
- Candy that has been opened should be thrown away. Any homemade treats or fruit should be inspected closely.
- Remember drivers have a hard time seeing people, especially at dusk.
- Never cross the street from between parked cars.
- Watch open flames from jack-o-lanterns as they present a fire hazard for costumes and long wigs. Review the "stop, drop and roll" procedure in case your costume catches on fire.
- Only visit well lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses.
- Don't enter any homes unless you know the people.
- Carry a spare Halloween bag -- in case it breaks or your original one is filled.
- Make sure fake knives, swords, and guns are made from cardboard or other flexible materials to avoid accidental injury or worse - having them mistaken for the real thing.
- Don't cut across yards. Use sidewalks and stay out of back yards.
- Follow traffic signals and don't jaywalk or cross at mid-block.
- Always watch for cars backing up or turning.



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- Never accept rides from strangers.
- Respect other people and their property.
- Be polite and say "thank you."

It is also important to ensure that your home is safe and accessible to trick-or-treaters. There are some very simple steps to make the evening safe for everyone.

- Turn on your porch light.
- Move lit jack-o-lanterns off the porch where kids get bunched up when trick-or-treating in groups.
- Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard.
- Drive slowly all evening. You never know what little "creature" may suddenly cross your path.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

For adults celebrating Halloween, there are some things to consider when wearing that "perfect" costume.

- Make sure any accessories, such as fake guns, knives, and other potentially dangerous items are not mistaken for the real thing.
- Fire safety and visibility are important for adult costumes. Apply the same standards to adult costumes as you do to your children's.
- Remember adults that are dressed up can be pretty scary to young children.

The Austin Police Department wishes everyone a safe and fun Halloween.

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